

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-14 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 are amended and claim 4 is canceled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter found therein. No new matter is added.

In paragraph 2, on page 2 of the Office Action, the Specification is objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.77(b). Accordingly, the Specification is amended to include the proper section headings in the appropriate order. It is noted that the title of the invention was amended in accordance with §1.77(b) in a Preliminary Amendment filed September 3, 2004. Thus, it is respectfully requested the objection be withdrawn.

In paragraph 7, on page 4 of the Office Action, claims 3-8 and 10-14 are indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the features of the base claims and any intervening claims. By this Amendment, the subject matter of allowable claim 4 is incorporated into independent claim 1. Therefore, independent claim 1 recites allowable subject matter.


In paragraph 4, on page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Langen et al. (Langen), U.S. Patent No. 6,256,986. The rejection with respect to claim 1 is rendered moot by the amendment to claim 1, which recites the allowable features of cancelled claim 4. Thus, claim 2, as amended, is also allowable.

In paragraph 6, on page 3 of the Office Action, claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Langen in view of Fiala et al. (Fiala), U.S. Patent No. 6,581,639. The rejection is rendered moot by the amendment to claim 1, from which claim 9 depends, because claim 1 recites allowable subject matter, as discussed above.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1, 3 and 5-14 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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